

M. Page 31, line 21, insert:

"Summary of the Invention".

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter claims 1,2 and 8, as amended, as follows:

1.(amended) A process for purification of ethylene oxide by distillation, comprising

the step in which

- an aqueous mixture comprising ethylene oxide, formaldehyde and at least 5 % by weight of water is introduced via a feed into a distillation apparatus comprising at least one distillation column, the mixture being introduced at a height above the bottom of at least 8 theoretical stages,

- [the] pure ethylene oxide containing 4 ppm or less formaldehyde, is taken off at the top and

- in the bottom phase, a mixture is obtained which contains less than 5 % by weight of ethylene oxide.

2.(amended) A process for purification of ethylene oxide by distillation, comprising

the step in which

- an aqueous mixture comprising ethylene oxide, formaldehyde and at least 5 % by weight of water is introduced via a feed into a distillation apparatus comprising at least one packed column which contains a structured or bulk

packing and has a specific mass transfer area A, the mixture being introduced at a height above the bottom of at least x^{\min} [(in m)], in m, which, for a given specific mass transfer area A[(in m^2/m^3)], in m^2/m^3 , is given by the equation

$$x^{\min} = 5.5 \text{ m} - A \cdot 0.006 \text{ m}^2,$$

- [the] pure ethylene oxide containing 4 ppm or less formaldehyde, is taken off at the top and

- in the bottom phase a mixture is obtained which contains less than 5% by weight of ethylene oxide.

Claim 6, line 2, delete "principally".

8.(amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein [a] the distillation apparatus is used in which, between the feed and the bottom, there is installed a side take-off via which is taken off a mixture which is [enriched] richer with acetaldehyde [in comparison with] than the influent aqueous mixture.

Claim 9, line 1, delete "a".

Please cancel claim 10.